

Wymondham

Urban District



Annual Report

for the year

1951

of the

Medical Officer of Health

together with the

Annual Report
of the

Sanitary Inspector

ANNUAL REPORT
for the year 1951 of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
to the WYMONDHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1951, which has been compiled according to the instructions of the Minister of Health and along the lines of my previous report.

Staff and Administration.

I am pleased to be able to record that the Council has implemented a decision to appoint an assistant Sanitary Inspector to assist Mr. Hudson. The time Mr. Hudson was able to give to his duties as Sanitary Inspector has been progressively curtailed as his work as Surveyor increased. With the additional assistance, the Sanitary work of the District should again be able to go forward.

I regret that clerical assistance has not yet materialized in the County Council Area Office from which I supervise the work of Area No. 5. The work is considerable and at present is being carried out by my County staff, often out of office hours and with neither official nor financial recognition. One of the factors which led to the establishment of Health Areas, was the appreciation that the divisions in responsibility for health matters, such as exist between the County Council and District Councils are artificial devices and the full benefit of my joint position can only be forthcoming if as much routine work as possible is centralized in one office and adequate clerical assistance is forthcoming there.

The County Council area office, formerly at Long Stratton, moved to new quarters in Aspland Road, Norwich, in November, 1951.

Vital Statistics.

Detailed figures are given in the conclusions to this report, whilst certain items on which I have seen fit to comment are dealt with below.

General Remarks.

The changes in social and economic conditions during the last few years have been so rapid and far reaching that it is difficult as yet, to assess their significance. It is perhaps unexpected that in spite of the unprecedented difficulties of the times in which we live, progress has been made in a wide variety of fields which affect the social well being of the people. Many of these are not my official concern, but I would point out that every index by which we are accustomed to judge the health of the public, such as infant mortality rates and death rates, have shown steady improvement. The immediate reasons for this are many and complex, but generally speaking the main underlying factor has been an accelerated awakening of social conscience which had its fitful beginnings in the last century.

It is indeed unfortunate that the demand for better living conditions - better housing, more of those legion amenities which modern science and industry can provide to make life less burdensome, should come at a time when it is so difficult to find ways and means of bringing them within the reach of all. With such carrots before the donkeys' noses, it is understandable that one can sense frustration affecting both those who have found new horizons, but are unable to reach them, as well as those who are hard put to it to maintain those standards they once took for granted.

A measure of the change in your area is that the clamant demand for houses continues, both in spite of a relatively static population and of new houses constructed. Here there was no war damage and although there is a tendency for families to be smaller and therefore a larger number of families in any given population, I feel that the largest cause of the continuing need is a demand for a general raising of the standard of living.

Population, Births and Deaths.

The Registrar General estimates your population to be 5,650, compared with 5,633 in 1950.

The mid-year population was * 5,650, compared with 5,633 in 1950.

There were 80 births and 84 deaths, giving a natural decrease of 4. For practical purposes, therefore, your population has remained stationary.

There were four deaths in children under one, compared with one death in 1950.

In addition, whereas in 1950 there were no deaths between the ages of 2 and 5, there were 2 deaths in this age group in 1951. This represents a relatively large increase in childhood deaths, but numbers are small and no deductions can be drawn from them.

Cancer accounted for 15 deaths being 17.8% of all deaths.

There were also 5 still births. Again an increase on last year's figures.

Infectious diseases, excluding Tuberculosis.

Only 58 cases of notifiable diseases were recorded. The bulk of these (35) were in respect of whooping cough. The result of a careful trial carried out by the Medical Research Council during the year has shown that immunisation gives considerable protection against this disease. Fewer cases occur and those which do are milder. At present, however, it is not as effective as that against diphtheria. Pending other arrangements, protection is available to all children through their family doctors. It is during the first year of life that complications with permanent sequelae are most likely to occur in this disease and every effort should be made to secure the inoculation of children as soon as possible after six months of age.

Tuberculosis.

Only one new pulmonary and three non-pulmonary cases were reported. During the year the Register has been thoroughly overhauled and this has resulted in a reduction in the number of cases remaining on the Register, from 40 to 31.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

It will be seen from Table 16 that in Area 5 83% of school children have been immunised against diphtheria - a very satisfactory figure. A corresponding percentage for pre-school children however is only 46% and I would like to see this higher.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

From Table 17 it will be seen that the percentage of young children vaccinated has steadily increased in Wymondham in the last 3 years to reach 60%. This compares very favourably with Area 5, with the County and with England and Wales as a whole.

* Footnote: The census figures are as follows:-

| | | |
|-------|---|--------|
| 1931 | - | 5,017. |
| 1951. | - | 5,664. |

Housing.

During the year 12 new houses have been completed by the Council and a further 5 by private enterprise. The corresponding figures for Council building in the post-war years are shown in Table 19. The Council owns some 417 out of the 1,676 in the district, i.e. 24.8%.

Nevertheless, at the end of the year there still remained 192 applications outstanding.

Detailed figures for 1949, 1950 and 1951 are given on Page 3 of the Sanitary Inspector's report and it is clear that the demand continues steadily.

It will be noted that since 1949 the number of applications from childless families has been reduced from 53 to 41. The number of families with one child has increased slightly from 35 to 38, whereas families with two or more children have increased from 44 to 57. The waiting list of old persons requiring bungalows has risen from 50 to 56 since 1949. Whilst I think the Council's policy of building a proportion of bungalows and Duplex houses is undoubtedly wise, I feel the need of families with children, particularly a number of children, is on the whole greater than that of families without, although it must be conceded that a number of married couples intentionally avoid parenthood because of lack of housing accommodation. The three bedroomed house is, therefore, still the best general purpose building.

A very important matter is that only a small proportion of those on the housing application list occupy Category 5 houses and it is already apparent from the housing survey, incomplete though it yet is, that a relatively small percentage of persons in similar properties have seen fit to apply for a Council tenancy. I do not know how far this is due to the relatively high Council rents, or to the fact that those concerned are content to stay in their present dwellings. If there are those who are in need of re-housing in the interests of public health - (and this term now conotes more than the mere absence of disease in the clinical sense) it is within my province to point out that there are families occupying Council houses where over-all income is such as to make a State subsidy, central or local, quite unnecessary.

Under the Housing Act, 1949, local authorities were enabled to build for all classes. In so doing I hope the Council will not lose sight of the fact that building powers were originally conferred to enable local authorities to provide houses for those who, for a variety of reasons were unable to provide themselves with a satisfactory home.

The clearance and re-development of several sites in the town is long overdue and I would suggest that the time has now come when the Council might make a beginning with this matter. It is apparent that over 100 houses will be placed in Category 5 before the survey is finished. I would emphasize that a Category 5 house is, in the opinion of your officers, unfit to be lived in and has come to the end of its useful life. The Council should not condone the "patching" of these properties. This is not in the best interests of the town, the individual owners or the occupiers. As soon as the Council re-house a family from such a worn out property, it is my practice to represent the house to your Committee for action under section 11 of the Housing Act. To allow such a place to be occupied only gives a chance to another family of "jumping the queue".

During the year no demolition orders were made. On the basis of the useful life of a house being 100 years, an average of 15 houses become "worn out" every year. In addition there is the back log of over 100 properties, the majority of which were **already unfit over** a decade ago.

I would ask the Council to consider carefully the extent to which practical inroads can be made into this problem.

I am pleased to record that during the year the Council has adopted a minimum standard for existing houses. This is given in full in the Sanitary Inspector's report. It is a step in the right direction and while it is not practical to implement all its provisions at the present time, it serves a useful purpose in indicating to the Council the extent to which any given

property is defective.

Overcrowding.

During the year 1 case of statutory overcrowding was reported to the Health Committee. The standard of statutory overcrowding, as laid down in the Housing Act, is extremely low, allowing in some cases for 10 persons to occupy a three bedroomed house. A standard based on bedrooms alone, is much more realistic and I would suggest that the Council consider whether it would not be wise to adopt such a standard as its own working basis.

Problem Families.

There are, in your, as in other districts, a number of households which are best classed as "problem families".

Each family is a separate problem in itself, but there are a number of circumstances which characterise a high proportion of them, e.g., intractable ineducability, instability or infirmity of character of one or both parents. These together, express themselves in the persistent neglect of children, in fecklessness, irresponsibility, improvidence in the conduct of life and indiscipline in the home wherein dirt, poverty and squalor are often conspicuous.

I do not know how many such families there are in your district, but I estimate it conservatively at 100 for the four districts comprising Area 5.

A serious feature, and one which indicates the size of the problem is the fact that these families tend to have more children than others - the average number of children in a group in Bristol was 4.34 per family - and these children, which probably number about 500 in Area 5, and 3/4,000 in the County of Norfolk, are brought up, irrespective of their intelligence in squalid conditions which they tend to perpetuate when they grow up, marry and start their own homes.

These families, many of them known to you individually, are brought to the official notice of this Council mainly through their housing circumstances and there is no doubt that the majority are in urgent need of better housing conditions.

I am of the opinion, however, that much more comprehensive measures than re-housing alone are required if there is to be any hope of rehabilitating a substantial proportion of these families - even more important, if there is to be any hope of preventing the relatively large number of children following in their parents' footsteps.

At the present time, the problem in Norfolk is dealt with piecemeal, each department giving what help it can, and most hesitating to give any at all because of the belief that any help given is wasted. There is urgent need for a comprehensive overall policy in regard to these families which would include an assessment of their number and type and ensure co-ordination between all the interested parties.

My experience suggests that a major factor in the majority of these families is the presence of a mother of poor intelligence who has sufficient intelligence not to require statutory supervision, but not sufficient ability to maintain a home - a job which requires ability to plan, budget and sustain an organised way of life.

A man of similar intelligence level can almost always earn his own living because the jobs he is able to retain are usually those where he is required to do routine work under supervision and which make no demands on his initiative.

The children from these families can be picked out without much difficulty at school, and I doubt if the content of education provided for them at present

is that which will be most likely to prevent their perpetuating the circumstances when they themselves become adult.

The factual information available is, however, very limited and the whole matter requires much more attention than has been given to it heretofore.

National Assistance Act, 1948 and Amended Act, 1951.

Your Medical Officer has now been appointed Authorised Officer for the purposes of the above Acts.

No action was taken in connection with these powers during the year.

Water Supply.

Although the quantity and quality of the town supply remained satisfactory during the major part of the year, there were several incidents which suggested that the plant was being overtaxed and the Council has wisely set in train measures to sink a further three bores. The quantity of water should then be ample for the town's supply and for the neighbouring areas it serves. The water is, however, very hard (ranging between approximately 19 and 25 degress Clark). The existing lime softening plant, inadequate to deal even with the water pumped from the two old bores, will be hopelessly so once the new bores come into operation. It seems to me that the installation of a base exchange system will be the only satisfactory answer, but this is a matter on which the Council's engineers will doubtless advise.

Fluorine.

During the year the town water supply was analysed for its Fluorine content and this was found to be 0.1 part per million. A considerable body of evidence has accumulated which suggests that the presence of approximately one part per million of fluorine in drinking water retards the onset of dental decay. The practice of adding fluorine to the town supply to bring the fluorine content to the optimum figure has already been adopted in a number of communities in the U.S.A.

The result of a careful survey carried out by the Medical Research Society in this country has tended to confirm that the presence of fluorine within these limits is beneficial, but no official pronouncement has yet been made with regard to this matter.

Public Houses.

During the year your Sanitary Inspector has carried out a much needed survey of Licensed premises in the district and I am pleased to be able to state that improvements have been forthcoming with the co-operation of the brewers in all cases.

I would like to express my thanks to Council members for their co-operation, to the Clerk, Mr.T.J.Turner, and to Mr.R.F.Hudson for their assistance throughout the year. I am also indebted to the staff of my office for considerable help in the preparation of this report.

A.E.BROWN,
M.D., D.P.H.

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Area (in Acres). | 10,950. |
| Estimated Resident Population. | 5,650. |
| Rateable Value. | £22,975. |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate. | £90.2.11d. |

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Legitimate. | 28. | 49. | 77. |
| Illegitimate. | -- | 3. | 3. |
| Total. | 28. | 52. | 80. |

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated
Resident Population:
Wymondham Urban District 14.15.
Area No. 5. 15.4.

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Legitimate. | 3. | 1. | 4. |
| Illegitimate. | 1. | - | 1. |
| Total. | 4. | 1. | 5. |

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births:
Wymondham Urban District. 58.8.
Area No. 5. 26.8.

Table 4. DEATHS (all ages).

| Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--------|----------|--------|
| 46. | 38. | 84. |

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated
Resident Population:
Wymondham Urban District. 14.8.
Area No. 5. 14.0.

Table 5. INFANT MORTALITY. (Deaths of Infants under one year).

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Legitimate. | 1. | 3. | 4. |
| Illegitimate. | - | - | - |
| Total. | 1. | 3. | 4. |


Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births:
Wymondham Urban District. 50.0.
Area No. 5. 27.5.

Table 6. CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-----------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Congenital syphilis. | - | 1. | 1. |
| Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea. | 1. | 1. | 2. |
| Pneumonia. | - | 1. | 1. |
| Total: | 1. | 3. | 4. |

Table 7. CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS (Registrar-General).

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|--------|----------|--------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory. | - | - | - |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other. | 2. | - | 2. |
| 3. Syphilitic disease. | - | 1. | 1. |
| 4. Diphtheria. | - | - | - |
| 5. Whooping Cough. | - | - | - |
| 6. Meningococcal infections. | - | - | - |
| 7. Acute poliomyelitis. | - | - | - |
| 8. Measles. | - | - | - |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases. | - | - | - |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach. | 2. | - | 2. |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus. | 1. | 1. | 2. |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast. | - | 2. | 2. |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus. | - | - | - |
| 14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms. | 3. | 6. | 9. |
| 15. Leukoemia, Aleukemia. | - | - | - |
| 16. Diabetes. | 1. | - | 1. |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system. | 6. | 6. | 12. |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina. | 6. | 4. | 10. |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease. | - | 1. | 1. |
| 20. Other heart disease. | 9. | 8. | 17. |
| 21. Other circulatory disease. | 1. | 3. | 4. |
| 22. Influenza. | 2. | - | 2. |
| 23. Pneumonia. | 1. | 1. | 2. |
| 24. Bronchitis. | 1. | 1. | 2. |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system. | 1. | - | 1. |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum. | - | - | - |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea. | 1. | 1. | 2. |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis. | 1. | - | 1. |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate. | - | - | - |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth abortion. | - | - | - |
| 31. Congenital malformations. | - | - | - |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases. | 3. | 2. | 5. |
| 33. Motor Vehicle accidents. | 2. | 1. | 3. |
| 34. Other accidents. | 2. | - | 2. |
| 35. Suicide. | 1. | - | 1. |
| 36. Homicide & operations of war. | - | - | - |
| Total: | 46. | 38. | 84. |



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Table 11. NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

| | Under 1 yr. | 1-2 yrs. | 3-4 yrs. | 5-9 yrs. | 10-14 yrs. | 15-24 yrs. | Over 25. | Total. |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------|
| Scarlet Fever. | - | 1. | 1. | 7. | - | - | - | 9. |
| Measles. | - | - | - | 3. | - | - | - | 3. |
| Whooping Cough. | 4. | 10. | 9. | 12. | - | - | - | 35. |
| Pneumonia: | - | - | - | - | - | 1. | 1. | 2. |
| Infective Hepatitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1. | 1. |
| Poliomyelitis. | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1. | 1. |
| (Non-Paralytic). | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia. | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1. | 1. |
| Food Poisoning. | - | - | - | - | 1. | - | - | 1. |
| Erysipelas. | - | 1. | - | - | - | - | 4. | 5. |
| Total: | 4. | 12. | 10. | 22. | 1. | 1. | 8. | 58. |

Table 12. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1951 (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

| | Quarters. | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|--------|
| | 1st. | 2nd. | 3rd. | 4th. | Total. |
| Scarlet Fever. | 1. | - | 2. | 6. | 9. |
| Whooping Cough. | 9. | 19. | 5. | 2. | 35. |
| Measles. | - | - | 1. | 2. | 3. |
| Pneumonia. | 1. | - | - | 1. | 2. |
| Puerperal Pyrexia. | - | - | - | 1. | 1. |
| Poliomyelitis (non- paralytic). | 1. | - | - | - | 1. |
| Food Poisoning. | - | - | 1. | - | 1. |
| Erysipelas. | - | 2. | 3. | - | 5. |
| Infective Hepatitis. | - | 1. | - | - | 1. |
| Total: | 12. | 22. | 12. | 12. | 58. |

Table 13. TUBERCULOSIS. (Details of new cases during 1951).

| Age Period. | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
|-------------|------------|----|----------------|----|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0-4. | - | - | 1. | - |
| 5-14. | - | - | - | - |
| 15-24. | - | - | 1. | 1. |
| 25-34. | - | - | - | - |
| 35-44. | - | 1. | - | - |
| 45-54. | - | - | - | - |
| 55-64. | - | - | - | - |
| 65- | - | - | - | - |
| Total: | - | 1. | 2. | 1. |

Table 14. TUBERCULOSIS. (Number of cases on T.B. Register end 1951.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Pulmonary. | 12. | 6. | 18. |
| Non-Pulmonary. | 3. | 10. | 13. |
| Total: | 15. | 16. | 31. |

Table 15. DETAILS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS.

| | | 1947. | 1948. | 1949. | 1950. | 1951. |
|---------------|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Pulmonary. | M. | 2. | 1. | 1. | 2. | - |
| | F. | 2. | - | - | - | 1. |
| Non-Pulmonary | M. | 3. | - | 1. | - | 2. |
| | F. | - | - | - | 1. | 1. |
| Total: | | 7. | 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
| Area 5 Total: | | 31. | 25. | 34. | 31. | 36. |

Table 16. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.

The following table shows the immunisation state of the children in Area No. 5., comprising Diss and Wymondham Urban Districts and Depwade and Loddon Rural Districts for the year ended 31st. December, 1951.

| | Under School Age. | School Age. | Total. |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------|
| Number Immunised. | 1493. | 4891. | 6384. |
| Estimated Population | 3227. | 5887. | 9114. |
| Percentage Immunised | 46. | 83. | 70. |

Table 17. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The state of vaccination of children born during 1950 and 1951 resident in the District and in Area No. 5, comprising Diss and Wymondham Urban Districts and Depwade and Loddon Rural Districts is shown in the following table.

| | Wymondham U.D. | | | Area 5. | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| | 1949. | 1950. | 1951. | 1949. | 1950. | 1951. |
| Number of live births registered. | 87. | 97. | 80. | 616. | 590. | 617. |
| Number of vaccinations recorded. | 46. | 54. | 48. | 349. | 339. | 320. |
| Percentage vaccinated. | 52.8 | 55.6 | 60. | 56.6 | 57.4 | 51.8 |

Table 18. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER. (WYMONDHAM URBAN DISTRICT).

| | 1947. | 1948. | 1949. | 1950. | 1951. |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of Deaths. | 14. | 10. | 13. | 110. | 15. |
| Percentage of Total Deaths. | 21.5 | 14.0 | 18.3 | 16.1 | 17.8 |

Table 18A. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER. (AREA 5.).

| | 1947. | 1948. | 1949. | 1950. | 1951. |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of Deaths. | 59. | 83. | 82. | 84. | 86. |
| Percentage of total deaths. | 11.7 | 16.9 | 16.8 | 17.3 | 15.3 |

Table 19. COUNCIL HOUSES BUILT IN POST-WAR YEARS.

| Year. | No. of Houses. |
|--------|----------------|
| 1946. | 20. |
| 1947. | 18. |
| 1948. | 36. |
| 1949. | 24. |
| 1950. | 46. |
| 1951. | 12. |
| Total: | 156. |

Note: 15 prefabricated bungalows of the "Tarran" type were completed during 1946 in addition to the accommodation mentioned above.

MEDICAL SERVICES AVAILABLE IN AREA No. 5.

In my Annual Report for 1950 I gave a summary of the Medical Services available in Area No. 5. There have been only minor amendments during the year and these are given below.

Care of Mothers and young Children.

Infant Welfare Centres (Doctor in attendance) are held as follows:-

| | | |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| Diss (Congregational Schoolroom) | - | 2nd. Friday each month. |
| Harleston (Congregational Church Hall) | - | 1st. Wednesday each month. |
| Loddon (Ambulance Brigade Room) | - | 1st. Tuesday " " |
| Long Stratton (Court Room) | - | 3rd. Thursday " " |
| Wymondham (Methodist Schoolroom) | - | 2nd. Thursday " " |

Village Infant Welfare Centres (District Nurse in charge). Sessions are now held monthly at the following villages:-

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Alpington. | Denton. | Gillingham. | Tacolneston. |
| Bressingham. | Ditchingham. | Hales. | Tibenham. |
| Brockdish. | Earsham. | Langley. | Thurlton. |
| Brooke. | Ellingham. | Spooner Row. | Topcroft. |
| Bunwell. | | | Woodton. |

Domestic Help.

During 1951, assistance was given in approximately 250 households and the number of Home Helps available was increased to over 60 in the Area but certain districts are still not fully covered.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wymondham Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st. December, 1951.

Staff.

Your Sanitary Inspector holds in addition the appointments of Highway Surveyor, Building Surveyor and Petroleum Inspector and has the services of a male clerk.

An additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed and took up his duties on the 1st. April, 1951. He obtained another post, however, and left the services of the Council on the 31st. December, 1951.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The system of sewerage in the town is a partially separate system. It was originally intended that it should be a separate system, but a considerable quantity of storm water now finds its way into the foul sewers.

There have been no additions to the system during the year.

The position at the sewage works remains the same, the question of additions and alterations to the works is in the hands of the Council's Consulting Engineers.

A new manhole was constructed on the Silfield Road sewer.

Water.

(a) Town Supply.

There is a piped water supply in the Urban part of the district with pumping station situate at Wicklewood in the Rural District of Forehoe and Henstead. The undertaking is owned by the Wymondham Urban District Council.

The Headworks comprise two 12" boreholes each 300 feet in depth, equipped with submersible pumps. The water is filtered, softened and chlorinated and the storage reservoir has a capacity of 240,000 gallons.

There are between 12 and 13 miles of mains with diameters of from 3" to 7", serving about 2/3rds. of the total population of the Urban District, by gravity.

The water from the bores has a hardness of 19.6 degrees (17.5 temporary and 2.1 permanent) this is reduced by treatment to about 7 degrees of hardness.

There were no extensions of the mains during the year under review.

The two new submersible pumps were installed towards the end of 1950 and in March, 1951 it was reported as follows:-

"No. 1 pump will maintain an output of 7,500 gallons per hour. When pumping at this rate the level of the water in the borehole is lowered by 5 feet compared with a reduction in water level of 4 feet, when pumping at 5,000 gallons per hour. This pump is situate at about 125 feet from the surface and from soundings taken when the borehole was open it appeared that sand to a depth of 28 feet had accumulated in bore No. 1 as compared with 15 feet in bore No. 2".

"The pump in No. 2 bore has 122' 10" of rising main and is capable of "delivering 8,500 gallons per hour which lowers the rest level by 6 feet. "When bpth pumps are operated simultaneously at 5,000 gallons per hour the "water level falls 17 feet but the normal rest level is quickly regained as "soon as pumping has ceased".

In November, 1951 the tender of Messrs. Geo. Stow & Co. Ltd., was accepted for the sinking and testing of an additional bore at the headworks.

The results of a chemical analysis of a sample of water taken at the headworks is set out on folio 11.

Four samples were taken from the mains for Bacteriological examination and in each case the result was the same, viz:-

"This sample is satisfactory".

Summary of Water Officer's Weekly Reports for the year ended 31st. December, 1951.

| <u>Month.</u> | <u>Water Pumped and Softened.</u> | <u>Lime used.</u> | <u>Alumina used.</u> |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| January. | 4,150,000. | 11,956. | 304. |
| February. | 3,999,400. | 11,242. | 304. |
| March. | 5,357,800. | 14,602. | - |
| April. | 4,461,750. | 11,750. | 304. |
| May. | 4,759,000. | 11,920. | 150. |
| June. | 6,251,300. | 15,078. | 250. |
| July. | 5,058,550. | 12,488. | 200. |
| August. | 4,943,050. | 12,514. | 226. |
| September. | 6,001,000. | 14,644. | 250. |
| October. | 4,644,250. | 11,450. | 150. |
| November. | 4,551,000. | 11,662. | 200. |
| December. | 5,615,650. | 13,136. | 250. |
| | <u>59,792,750.</u> | <u>152,442.lbs.</u> | <u>2,588.lbs.</u> |
| | | = 68 tons 1 cwt. 10 lbs. = 1 ton 3 cwt. 12 lbs. | |
| 1950 | <u>59,311,450</u> | <u>64 12 81</u> | <u>1 7 16</u> |
| Increase | <u>481,300</u> | <u>3 8 41</u> Decrease | <u>4 4</u> |

2.5494 lbs. of lime used to every 1,000 gallons.

| <u>Connections.</u> | <u>From Main to Stop-Cock.</u> | <u>From Stop-Cock to Premises.</u> | <u>Meters Installed.</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| January. | - | 1. | - |
| February. | - | - | - |
| March. | 1. | - | - |
| April. | 1. | 7. | - |
| May. | - | 4. | - |
| June. | - | 3. | - |
| July. | - | 5. | - |
| August.. | 4. | 1. | - |
| September. | - | 4. | 1. |
| October. | 3. | - | - |
| November. | 2. | 8. | 1. |
| December. | - | - | - |
| | <u>11.</u> | <u>33.</u> | <u>2.</u> |

| | | | |
|---|-----|-------------|-------------------------|
| Parish of Hingham consumed | ... | ... | ...; 9,556,300 gallons. |
| Parish of Hethersett consumed | ... | ... | 396,560 " |
| Wymondham alone consumed | ... | ... | 49,839,890 " |
| Average daily consumption in Wymondham | ... | ... | 136,548 " |
| Average daily consumption in Hingham | ... | ... | 26,182 " |
| Average daily consumption in Hethersett | ... | ... | 1,086 " |
| Consumption through meter (including Hingham and Hethersett). | ... | ... | 20,464,392 " |
| | | 1950 | 20,005,012 " |
| | | increase of | <u>459,380</u> " |

Number of Consumers.

Meters 59. Special arrangement 23. Building Supplies 7.
Domestic 1283. Total 1372.

(b), Other Supplies.

Two small Council House Estates at Spooner Row (12 houses and 6 houses respectively) are dependent on water from shallow wells.

Samples from both wells were reported by the Analyst as unsatisfactory, so efforts were made to improve the wells by chlorination. A pre-determined amount of chloride of lime was dropped down each well at weekly intervals and while there was a gradual improvement the results fluctuated greatly from day to day and it was two months after the initial treatment before a sterile sample was obtained.

Once the water had become sterile, however, it was not difficult to maintain a high standard of bacterial purity and it was found that fortnightly chlorination would suffice to keep the water wholesome and fit for drinking purposes.

Housing.

(A). New Housing Progress.

During the year 17 houses were completed and occupied, 12 by the Council and 5 by private enterprise, and at the close of the year 30 were under construction, 26 by the Council and 4 by private enterprise.

The position with regard to post-war housing at the end of the year under review was that a grand total of 226 units of habitation had been completed and occupied; 15 temporary and 156 permanent by the Council and 55 by private enterprise. The 156 permanent houses built by the Council are made up as follows: 112 three bedroom houses; 10 four bedroom houses; 12 bungalows; 10 duplex houses containing 20 units of accommodation and 2 shops with flats.

(b). Demand for New Houses.

The register of applications for Council houses from persons residing or working in the Urban District showed 192 live applications at 31st. December, 1951. The details of these applications are set out below, along with the figures for the two previous years for comparison:-

| | December 1949. | December 1950. | December 1951. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Childless families. | 53. | 48. | 41. |
| One child families. | 35. | 49. | 38. |
| Families with 2 or more children. | 44. | 57. | 57. |
| Old people requiring bungalows. | <u>50.</u> | <u>54.</u> | <u>56.</u> |
| | <u>182.</u> | <u>208.</u> | <u>192.</u> |

In view of the large percentage of applicants for the smaller type of accommodation the Council has continued the practice of building a proportion of bungalows and duplex houses, for old people and young married couples respectively.

The Rothbury Estate was completed during the year with the exception of the erection of 4 bungalows which it was decided to build on the site of the demolished wooden bungalow.

After holding an "Inquiry" the Ministry confirmed the Compulsory Purchase of 18 acres of land lying between Pople Street and Melton Road. Work was commenced on the extension of services to the site and building operations were also in hand at the close of the year.

(c), Private Enterprise Building.

The licensing restrictions with regard to new house building were relaxed during the year and in view of the number of long standing applicants for permission to build houses for themselves the Council decided to issue a number of licences up to 50% of their allocation of houses to the district. The conditions under which applicants for licences were living were ascertained and before a licence was issued the Council had to be satisfied that the need was as great as that of persons on the waiting list for Council houses.

At the close of the year the number of persons under this category was 15.

(d). Existing Housing Conditions.

The following Standard of Fitness for existing houses was submitted to the Public Health Committee in March, 1951 and it was resolved that such conditions be accepted for guidance purposes as the minimum desired standard for existing accommodation in the district:-

(1). Siting.

(a) Each house shall have adequate land space which is sufficient for:-

- (i) Free circulation of air (as defined in Building Byelaws).
- (ii) Disposal of house refuse, nightsoil and drainage where necessary.

(b) The means of approach to the house shall be satisfactory at all times of the year and each house shall have a secondary means of access to facilitate the removal of house refuse.

(2). Structure.

(a) The external fabric shall be of sound materials; weatherproof, and in a good state of repair.

(b) All roofs (other than thatched roofs) shall be provided with eaves, gutters and down spouts with satisfactory means of disposal of rain water.

(c) In the case of thatched roofs the ground surface immediately adjoining the house shall be paved and drained as necessary, and the house wall protected by impervious rendering for a height of 2 feet.

(3). Dampness.

(a) Houses suffering from serious permanent dampness of walls and/or ground floors, shall be regarded as totally unfit for human habitation if it is impossible to remedy the dampness.

(b) Unless adequate measures (e.g. vertical damp proof course or a dry area) have been taken, no floor shall be below the level of the surrounding ground.

(4). Height of rooms used for human habitation.

(a) It is desirable that all rooms shall be at least 7' 6" high.

- (b) In no case shall a ground floor room less than 6' 9" high be accepted as suitable for human habitation.
- (c) Rooms situated wholly or partly in the roof shall be at least 6' 6" high over not less than two thirds of the floor space of the room. For this purpose the term "floor space" is as defined in the Overcrowding Acts.

(5). Lighting and Ventilation.

- (a). Every habitable room shall be provided with a window or windows which shall open directly into the external air and be free from obstruction and which shall:-
 - (i) have a total area not less than 1/10th. of the floor area of the room, and
 - (ii) be so constructed that a total area not less than 1/20th. of the floor area of the room may be opened and to the extent of this requirement the windows can be opened at the top.
- (b). Where the distance from the floor to the bottom of the window is less than 2' 6", the window area below that height shall be discounted.
- (c). Efficient alternative means of ventilation shall be provided if there is no chimney flue.

(6). Size and internal arrangements.

- (a). The staircase shall be well lighted where possible and provided with a hand-rail. It should be so placed as to allow separate access to all bedrooms.
- (b). No room of less than 50 square feet effective floor area (vid. Item 4) shall be regarded as a habitable room (vid. Housing Act, 1936). Moreover, the minimum width of any habitable rooms shall be not less than 5 feet.
- (c). There shall be at least one room suitable for use as a living room with a superficial area of not less than 100 square feet.

(7). Amenities.

- (a). Heating.
There shall be adequate and fixed heating arrangements in at least one living room and one bedroom.
- (b). Cooking.
There shall be adequate cooking arrangements provided as an owner's fixture. For this purpose adequate cooking arrangements are:-
 - (i) A portable or fixed electric or gas cooking range, or
 - (ii) A solid fuel cooking stove with oven.
- (c). Water.
 - (i) Every house shall have an adequate supply of wholesome water within a distance not greater than 100 feet from the dwelling.
 - (ii) In cases where the house is within the area covered by the Council's piped supply, the supply to the house must be taken from the public main and the service pipe shall terminate inside the house, with a tap over a sink.
- (d). Drainage.
Every house shall have a sink and adequate arrangements for disposal of waste water. Where the house is within 100 feet of a public sewer, the drainage shall be connected thereto, in other cases the drainage shall terminate in a cesspool or soakaway approved by the Surveyor.

(e). Sanitary Conveniences.

Each house shall have an adequate and separate sanitary convenience. For this purpose "adequate" includes a water closet or a pail closet (including a chemical closet).

(f). Washing facilities.

(i) Each house shall have adequate washing facilities and proper means for the heating of water sufficient for all household and personal needs.

(ii) In no case shall a furnace pan be situate in the main living room.

(g). Food Storage.

Every house shall have an adequate and cool food store suitably lighted and ventilated to the external air.

(h). General.

(i) All yards and passages used in common shall be paved with concrete or other suitable material, channelled and drained. Adequate paving shall also be provided in individual cases where necessary.

(ii) Each house shall be provided with facilities for the storage fuel, etc.

(iii) Each house shall be provided with gas or electric lighting where such services are available.

During the year 145 cottages were inspected and recorded under the 1936 Housing Act. and on applying the above standard of fitness the cottages fell into the following categories:-

Housing Act, 1936.

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| <u>Section 9.</u> | Repairable at a reasonable cost. | 52. |
| <u>Section 11.</u> | Not repairable at a reasonable cost. | 92. |
| <u>Section 12.</u> | Part of a building unsuitable for human habitation. | 1. |

I would like to point out that the 145 cottages are probably the worst in the Town.

As time permits the survey will be continued in the year 1952.

Repairs have been carried out to 15 properties during the year by the issue of informal notices.

Improvements have been carried out during the year to existing house property as follows:-

- 2 properties divided to provide accommodation for one additional family in each case.
- 5 dwellings - additions of new sculleries.
- 7 dwellings - bathrooms provided.
- 13 dwellings - sinks provided.
- 19 dwellings - W.C.s in place of pail closets.

Domestic Scavenging.

The domestic scavenging of the town is carried out by direct labour. One motor vehicle, a 7 cubic yard "Karrier" and 2 men, are employed on the work which consists of emptying weekly:-

143 pailclosets, and
1241 dustbins.

In addition there are 4 vault closets which are emptied as and when necessary. The men also collect trade refuse from a number of business premises for which service the owners are charged 6d. in the £ of the rateable value of the premises.

The scavenging area has not been extended during the year and remains the same, viz:-

Norwich Road - as far as the "Old Oak" Public House.
Browick Road - as far as the Council houses.
Silfield Road - as far as Colls Farm.
London Road - including the 2 cottages near Longfields House.
Cavick Road - as far as the river.
To the North of the Town, Tuttles Lane is roughly the limit of collection.

The refuse tip is situated in Strayground Lane, but it is the Council's intention to close this as soon as another suitable site can be acquired, preliminary steps were taken to acquire a new tip in Rightup Lane.

During the year it was possible by agreement or informal notice to get 19 pail closets converted to water closets, four of these being outside the scavenging area.

When considering the estimates of income and expenditure for the year ended 31st. March, 1952 the Public Health Committee considered a comprehensive report on the proposed extension of the scavenging area, to cover Sutton, Spooner Row and Silfield Street, which was equivalent to the emptying of an additional 261 dustbins. The scheme submitted allowed for the fortnightly emptying of the bins but did not include for the collection of nightsoil in the added areas. The estimated cost of extending the service on these lines was equivalent to a 4d. rate. After careful consideration it was resolved that having regard to the scattered situation of the properties and the estimated cost of the service, the Committee, while in sympathy with the requirements of such localities did not consider it an opportune time to put such a scheme into operation.

During the year eight statutory notices under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936 were served on owners of property to provide dustbins. In one case an owner appealed to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, but his appeal was dismissed. Subsequently dustbins were provided.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a). Ice Cream.

| | |
|---|------|
| Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream. | Nil. |
| Number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream. | 14. |
| Number of inspections made. | 49. |
| Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination. | 18. |

| <u>Grade.</u> | <u>No. of Samples.</u> |
|---------------|------------------------|
| I. | 8. |
| II | 4. |
| III. | 2. |
| IV. | 4. |

(b). Meat and Other Foods.

Owing to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease a slaughter house was opened by the Ministry of Food for one week for the slaughter of pigs. 108

pigs were slaughtered and examined with the following results:-

All diseases except tuberculosis,

| | |
|--|------|
| Whole carcasses condemned. | Nil. |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. | 1. |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis, | .9. |

Tuberculosis.

| | |
|--|------|
| Whole carcasses condemned. | Nil. |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. | 3. |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis. | 2.7. |

Two slaughter houses in the district are used for the occasional slaughter of pigs for home consumption by agreement with the Ministry of Food.

All of the butchers' shops and slaughter houses have been inspected regularly and found to be generally clean and satisfactory.

(c). Bakehouses.

The six bakehouses in the district have been visited regularly during the course of the year. An informal notice has been served on the owner of one bakehouse to provide washing facilities and to recondition the premises; this notice has not yet been complied with. In one other case an informal notice was served and was complied with during the year.

(d). Fish Shops.

There are 3 wet fish shops and 4 fried fish shops in the district. An informal notice was served on one fishmonger to improve the standard of cleanliness at his premises; I am pleased to report that this notice was complied with.

Summary of food condemned as unfit for human consumption.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 34 lbs. Pork. | 11 tins Meat Extract. (29 lbs). |
| 8½ lbs. Bovine Liver. | 13 lbs. Dried Egg Powder. |
| 3 Heads. (Pigs). | 5 tins Onion Powder. |
| 125 lbs. pig offal. | 1 tin evaporated milk. |
| 1 tin Jellied Veal. (6 lbs. 10 oz). | 17 tins spaghetti. |
| 2 tins minced beef loaf. (1½ lb). | 24 packets Custard Powder. |
| 51 tins Pork Luncheon Meat (47½ lbs). | 1 tin Barley Pudding. (7 lbs). |
| 1 tin whalemeat. (3 lbs). | 77 bottles tomato sauce. |
| 2 tins German ham. | 1 tin condensed milk. |
| 2 tins French ham. (41½ lbs). | 1 tin pineapple. |
| 1 tin pears. | |

Rodent Control.

The position with regard to rodent control remains the same as last year.

One of the Council's employees, a trained rodent operative, continues to give part time to this service.

Set out below is a copy of the report made to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the performance of the Council's functions under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. The report covers the 12 months period ending 31st. December, 1951.

| | Type of Property. | | | | Total. |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | L.A. | Dwelling Houses. | Agricultural. | Business & Industrial. | |
| 1. Total number of properties in L.A.'s District. | 7. | 1659. | 71. | 227. | 1964. |
| 2. Number of properties inspected by L.A. as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise. | (a) - (b) 7. | 31. 456. | - - | 11. 30. | 42. 493. |
| 3. Number of properties under (2) found to be infested by rats. | Major. - Minor. 4. | - - 63. | - - - | - - 11. | - - 78. |
| 4. Number of properties under (2) found to be seriously infested by mice. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5. Number of infested properties under (3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority. | 4. | 63. | - | 11. | 78. |

Number of "block control schemes carried out - 12.

During the year a sewer maintenance test treatment was carried out. In all the manholes test baited there was "no take", treatment was therefore not continued.

Dirty and Verminous Premises.

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| <u>Bed Bugs:</u> | Number of visits of inspection. | Nil. |
| | Number of rooms fumigated. | Nil. |
| <u>Fleas:</u> | Number of visits of inspection. | 4. |
| | Number of houses fumigated. | 1. |
| <u>Dirty Houses:</u> | Number of visits of inspection. | 7. |
| | Number of houses cleansed. | 3. |

Public Houses.

A survey was carried out of the Licensed Premises in the district.

10 Public Houses were found to have unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation.
1 Public House was found to be without main water supply.

With regard to glass washing facilities only 5 premises were provided with hot water "on tap".

As a result of this survey the unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences in 2 houses have been remedied, and notices served on the respective brewers to bring the remainder up to the required standard.

Factories and Workshops.

Most of the factories and workshops in the district were visited during the year.

One case of insufficient sanitary accommodation was referred by H.M. Inspector and an informal notice was served. The work was about to be put in hand at the close of the year.

The question of sanitary accommodation at a further factory, mentioned in the last Annual Report, was still outstanding.

An informal notice to cleanse and limewhite was complied with and after informal action new conveniences and drainage etc., were provided in connection with poultry dressing premises.

Swimming Baths.

Conditions at the privately owned swimming baths have remained the same as in previous years. The premises changed hands during the year and discussions took place with the new owner reference the proposed chlorination of the water.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

There is no camping problem in the Urban District. The few caravans there are in the area are controlled by the issue of licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Summary of Inspections, etc.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Private Dwellings (detailed). | 145. |
| Private Dwellings (Sanitary accommodation). | 354. |
| Private Dwellings (Housing applications). | 35. |
| Inspections under Public Health Act. | 301. |
| Inspections under Housing Act. | 32. |
| Inspections under Factories Act. | 70. |
| Bakehouses. | 37. |
| Sausage Preparation Rooms. | 37. |
| Meat Shops and Slaughterhouses. | 101. |
| Fried Fish Shops. | 32. |
| Wet Fish Shops. | 25. |
| Ice Cream Premises. | 125. |
| Food Shops. | 145. |
| Licensed Premises. | 58. |
| Rats and Mice. | 117. |
| Infectious Diseases. | 20. |
| Knackers Yard. | 8. |
| Public Conveniences. | 9. |
| Drainage. | 269. |
| Water Supply. | 356. |
| Milk Supply. | 2. |
| Cafes. | 31. |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds. | 8. |
| Refuse Disposal. | 18. |
| Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits. | 101. |
| Total: | <u>2436.</u> |

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

R.F. HUDSON,

C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Samples received from Wymondham Urban District Council.

Marked: Taken from a tap on main near top of bore, Town Water Supply,
14.11.51.

Appearance when received: Clear. Odour: Satisfactory.

Reaction: Slightly acid pH 6.4. Taste: Satisfactory.

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ammonical nitrogen: | 0.07. | Hardness as CaCO_3 : | |
| Albuminoid: | 0.01. | Total: | 380 = $26\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ Clark. |
| Nitrate nitrogen: | Nil. | Carbonate (temp). | 310. |
| Nitrite nitrogen: | Nil. | Non-carbonate (perm). | 70. |
| Chlorine as chlorides: | 22.0. | Alkalinity as CaCO_3 : | 322. |
| Oxygen absorbed (4 hr., 27° C). | 0.15. | Free Carbon dioxide: | 55.0 |
| | | Total solids (at 180° C): | 424. |
| | | Metals in solution - Iron - | 0.08. |
| | | Total Iron: | 0.96. |

Opinion: As might be expected from its origin, this water is hard, most of the hardness being due to dissolved chalk. The free carbonic acid is rather high and the reaction is in consequence on the acid side of neutrality. Iron is present, mainly in suspension at the time the sample was received. The organic quality of the water is very good and there is no sign of pollution. It is quite fit for drinking purposes.

